Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 (Currently Amended). A surface treatment apparatus comprising:

a sheet heating unit which heats a sheet containing at least a thermoplastic resin layer, the sheet being selected from a thermosensitive recording sheet, an inkjet sheet, an electrophotographic sheet, a hot developing sheet, a silver halide photography sheet, and a silver halide digital photography sheet; and

a sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit disposed on a downstream process side of the sheet heating unit which forms depressions and protrusions on ~~at least one of~~ the thermoplastic resin layer ~~and the image-forming layer~~.

2 (previously presented). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet heating unit heats the sheet at a temperature equal to or higher than the softening point of a thermoplastic resin in the thermoplastic resin layer.

3 (Original). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a thermoplastic resin forming the thermoplastic resin layer is a polyethylene resin.

4 (previously presented). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet comprises the thermoplastic resin layer and ~~an~~ the image-forming layer on a base, and

depressions and protrusions are formed on a surface of the image-forming layer and at an interface of the image-forming layer with the thermoplastic resin layer by the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit.

5 (Original). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit forms depressions and protrusions at a temperature equal to or higher than the softening point of a thermoplastic resin in the thermoplastic resin layer.

6 (Original). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of a depression depth, a protrusion height , and a depression and protrusion surface density can be adjusted.

7 (Original). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the protrusion height is 10 to 100μm, and a depression and protrusion interval is 10 to 300μm.

8 (Original). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of a depression depth, a protrusion height, and a depression and protrusion surface density can be adjusted according to customer specifications.

9 (Previously presented). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit forms depressions and protrusions of different shapes in different parts of the sheet according to an image to be formed on the sheet.

10 (Previously presented). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit selectively drives plural wires, and depressions and protrusions are formed by giving impacts to the sheet surface with the wires each comprising a depression and protrusion-forming member attached to the end thereof.

11 (Previously presented). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit is an impact printer head.

12 (Original). A surface treatment apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit is a roller having surface depressions and protrusions against the sheet.

13 (Canceled).

14 (Currently Amended). An image-forming apparatus comprising:

an image-forming unit which forms a visible image on a sheet, and

a surface treatment unit, comprising;

a sheet heating unit which heats the sheet comprising at least a thermoplastic resin layer, the sheet being selected from a thermosensitive recording sheet, an inkjet sheet, an electrophotographic sheet, a hot developing sheet, a silver halide photography sheet, and a silver halide digital photography sheet, and

a sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit disposed on the downstream process side of the sheet heating unit which forms depressions and protrusions on ~~at least one of~~ the thermoplastic resin layer ~~and the image-forming layer~~, the surface treatment unit performing surface treatment of the sheet on which an image is formed by the image-forming unit.

15 (Original). An image-forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the sheet heating unit which heats the sheet at a temperature equal to or higher than the softening point of a thermoplastic resin in the thermoplastic resin layer.

16 (Previously presented). An image-forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the sheet comprises the thermoplastic resin layer and the image-forming layer on a base, and

depressions and protrusions are formed on a surface of the

image-forming layer and at an interface of the image-forming layer with the thermoplastic resin layer by the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit.

17 (Original). An image-forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit forms depressions and protrusions at a temperature equal to or higher than the softening point of a thermoplastic resin in the thermoplastic resin layer.

18 (Previously presented). An image-forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit forms depressions and protrusions of different shapes in different parts of the sheet according to an image to be formed on the sheet.

19 (Previously presented). An image-forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit selectively drives plural wires, and depressions and protrusions are formed by giving impacts to the sheet surface with the wires each comprising a depression and protrusion-forming member attached to the end thereof.

20 (Previously presented). An image-forming apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit is an impact printer head.

21 (Original). An image-forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit is a roller having surface depressions and protrusions against the sheet.

22 (Previously presented). An image-forming apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a control unit which conducts one of driving and stopping driving the surface treatment unit so as to control an execution of surface treatment of the sheet.